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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. **ARE**

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Austria

DATE DISTR. 16 August 1950

SUBJECT Reorganization of the
Communist Party of Austria

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. A meeting of the Organization Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Austria (KPOe) on 2 May 1950 was attended by Johann Koplenig, party chairman; Friedl Fuernberg, secretary-general; Laurenz Genner, chairman of the peasant's committee; Alois Peter, secretary of the Vienna party branch; Otto Horn; Egon Kodicek, Theodor Maller; Josef Meisel and Rudolf Richter. First on the agenda was a report by Friedl Fuernberg on the preparations and outcome of the May Day celebrations. Koplenig subsequently declared that the party could consider the May Day activities a success.
2. Koplenig also stated that, notwithstanding recent achievements, the present party cadre, particularly at the higher level, was in need of further reorganization. Attempts of the party to install thoroughly indoctrinated functionaries at higher levels had failed, inasmuch as their work did not measure up to required standards. The successful outcome of the May Day celebrations was a result of the work of activists rather than of high-level functionaries. Koplenig proposed that about 40 percent of all precinct secretaries, particularly those in the federal provinces, be transferred to affiliated organizations and replaced by more reliable members. Attempts must be made to enlist the active cooperation of all pre-1945 members who have kept aloof from party work. Koplenig thought that the party organization could be strengthened greatly by assistance from these veteran Communists. This issue was discussed by Genner, Peter and Richter who also favored a reorganization, but suggested that the provincial party headquarters should effect the personnel changes deemed necessary. This proposal was agreed upon.
3. Friedl Fuernberg who was the last to speak stated that the Cominform had issued a directive to the effect that party functionaries at the level of precinct secretaries and higher must be party members for a minimum period of 5 years. Fuernberg asserted that this directive would cause the KPOe considerable difficulty because most of its active functionaries joined the party after 1945 from the ranks of the Socialist Party of Austria. For this reason he intended to request the Cominform to issue special directives for the KPOe on this matter.

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